

ATTACHMENT A

Planning Commission Report

To: City Council

From: Planning Commission

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Date: March 23, 2005

DGA Number: L050019

Recommendations:

Planning Commission: Approval for Comprehensive Plan Introduction and Introduction to the Neighborhoods Element.

Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. _____, amending the Redmond Comprehensive Plan to add updated elements for the Comprehensive Plan Introduction and Introduction to the Neighborhoods Element. The recommended elements are located in Exhibit A.

Summary: Redmond is completing a major update to its Comprehensive Plan. This portion of the update is being undertaken to address both City policy to periodically evaluate and update the Comprehensive Plan, as well as to address requirements under the Growth Management Act for review and update of comprehensive plans.

Background

In September 2003, the City Council adopted the updated vision, goals, and framework policies that, together with the preferred 20-year growth strategy, set the direction for this update. In August and October 2004, the City Council adopted updates for several of the more specific elements of the Comprehensive Plan, including Downtown; Community Character and Historic Preservation; Human Services; Land Use; Housing; and Economic Vitality; Annexation and Regional Planning; Parks, Recreation and Arts; Participation, Implementation and Evaluation; Transportation; Utilities; and Capital Facilities. City Council is currently reviewing policy

and regulatory updates for the Natural Environment Element.

The Introduction and Neighborhood Element Introduction are the final sections of the Comprehensive Plan update.

See Exhibit B for an overview of the recommended elements and a summary of major recommended policy updates compared to the existing policies.

**Reasons the
Proposal should be
Adopted:**

The proposed amendment should be adopted because:

- It refines policies to better reflect community vision and values, as evidenced by: comments from the Planning Commission during study session discussions on the topic and citizen comments from public meetings.
- It updates the existing policies to remove those that have been completed or become outdated, improve readability, and eliminate redundancy.
- It updates statistics about the City in the Introduction section as well as explaining the framework for policy decisions that follow

Recommended Findings of Fact

1. Public Hearing and Notice.

Public Hearing Date

The City of Redmond Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendments on March 16, 2005. There was no public testimony regarding the proposal. Minutes for the public hearing will be provided as Exhibit D.

Notice

Notices of the public hearings were published in the Eastside edition of the Seattle Times. Public notices were posted in City Hall and at the Redmond Library. Notice was also given by including the hearing in Planning Commission agendas and extended agendas mailed to various members of the public and various agencies. Hearing notices were also included on the City's web site. Copies of the proposed amendments were available in City Hall and from the City's web site.

Additional Outreach

The proposed updates respond to citizen comments from initial public meetings, including Housing Fair, Redmond Design Day, and a number of neighborhood meetings. Numerous community meetings held as part of Education Hill and North Redmond Neighborhood Plan Updates also informed the proposed amendment.

There has also been outreach on the entire Comprehensive Plan update through several articles on issues under consideration in *Focus on Redmond*, through the Redmond 2022 portion of the City's web site, and through articles in the *Redmond Reporter*.

2. Public Comments.

Exhibit D will include the public hearing minutes. Comments on specific issues of Commissioners are also summarized in Exhibit C.

Recommended Conclusions

1. Key Issues Raised by the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission held several initial study sessions with City staff to review and discuss existing policies for the elements in this package: Comprehensive Plan Introduction and Introduction to the Neighborhoods Element.

Below is a summary of the Planning Commission's major discussion issues for the elements. Exhibit C includes a more detailed summary of the Planning Commission's major discussion issues and responses as they related to the Neighborhoods Element only. Issues were not raised by the Planning Commission in reference to the Comprehensive Plan Introduction.

Introduction

The Planning Commission endorsed the Introduction as drafted.

Neighborhoods Element

For this element, the primary issue discussed by the Planning Commission concerned communication between the City and the neighborhood. The Planning Commission considered the frequency of communication, methods used to reach a diverse group, increased utilization of web based technology for the dissemination of information and feedback, and attention to plan implementation and followup. The highest communication priority was given to the development of opportunities during which reporting and feedback would take place between the City and officials, neighborhood representatives, and the residents of the neighborhood.

As part of the updates to this element, the Planning Commission discussed and endorsed a staff recommended change to describe a much more clearly defined communication strategy

throughout the neighborhood planning and updating process. An emphasis was placed upon broadening and strengthening the outreach methods for the purposes of:

- Initial announcement of the Neighborhood Planning Process including the intention, milestones, and expected outcome;
- Ensuring diverse representation of the neighborhood during the selection of the formal neighborhood group whether in the form of a Citizen Advisory Group or other appropriate representative group;
- Receiving feedback from the neighborhood residents with respect to opportunities and issues within the community throughout the recommendation development process; and
- Continued maintenance of the neighborhood plan as performed through periodic community gathering opportunities, and methods of process review and feedback.

2. *Recommended Conclusions of the Technical Committee.*

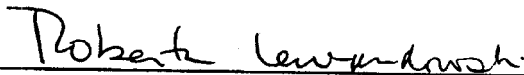
The recommended conclusions in the Technical Committee Reports (Exhibit E) should be adopted as conclusions.

3. *Planning Commission Recommendation.*

The Planning Commission unanimously approved motions to recommend the Comprehensive Plan Introduction and Introduction to the Neighborhoods Element.

List of Exhibits

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| Exhibit A: | Planning Commission's Recommended Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan |
| Exhibit B: | Summary of Major Policy Recommendations |
| Exhibit C: | Planning Commission Issue Table |
| Exhibit D: | Public Hearing Minutes |
| Exhibit E: | Technical Committee Report |


Roberta Lewandowski, Planning Director

3/23/05
Date


Martin Snodgrass, Planning Commission Chairperson

3/23/05
Date

Approved for Council Agenda 
Rosemarie Ives, Mayor

3/28/05
Date

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